GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2751
ANSWERED ON:20.03.2002
ISSUANCE OF PASSPORTS BY STATE GOVERNMENTS .
MOHAN RAWALE

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of passport offices functioning in the country at present;

(b) whether the Government propose to authorise State Governments to issue passports in view of the increasing number of passport seekers and delay in inquiry within prescribed time period ; and

(c) if so, the time by which it is likely to be done ?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH)

a) The total number of passport offices functioning in the country at present is 28. A list is placed on the table of the House.

b)&c)In addition to the 28 Passport Offices in the country the Government has also authorised Andaman and Nicobar Administration to issue passports. The Government has also decided to extend the facilities of issuance of passports at the capitals of North Eastern States.

The Government has also decided to decentralize the passport services and to bring these services closer to the people. Under this scheme, the passport applicants can deposit their filled passport application forms through the office of the District Magistrate/Superintendent of Police in every state throughout the country. The districts where the number of applications exceeds 10,000 per year will have dedicated District Passport Cells. The forms will be scrutinized and documents checked by the District Passport Cells and then forwarded to the Passport Office who will issue the passports. This scheme has already been launched in the States of Sikkim, Nagaland, Tamil Nadu, Punjab and Andhra Pradesh.

LIST OF PASSPORT OFFICES IN INDIA

S.NO. Name of PO/RPO

1. Ahmedabad

2. Bangalore

3. Bareilly

4. Bhopal

5. Bhubaneshwar
6. Kolkatta

7 Chandigarh

8. Chennai

9. Cochin
10. Delhi
11. Ghaziabad
12. Guwahati
13. Hyderabad
14. Jaipur
15. Jalandhar
16. Jammu

17. Kozhikode
18. Lucknow
19. Mumbai
20. Nagpur
21. Panaji
22. Patna
23. Pune
24. Srinagar
25. Thane
26. Trichy
27. Trivandrum
28. Visakhapatnam